COLORADO MEDICAID ANNOUNCES LIBRARY OUTREACH PROGRAM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DENVER – June 15, 2012 – The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (Department) announced today a new grant program that finances the installation of laptop computers in 50 libraries across Colorado. The laptops will help low-income Coloradans apply for Medicaid and Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) benefits through the online application portal called <u>Program and Eligibility Application Kit (PEAK)</u>.

"We recognize that placing laptops in community organizations, such as libraries, increases the accessibility for Coloradans to apply for Medicaid, CHP+, food and cash assistance programs," said Executive Director Sue Birch. "Libraries are trusted community partners which draw Coloradans from all walks of life. The laptops will provide access to those who otherwise may not have access to the internet and they can fill out an electronic application for benefits. The Department continues to make eligibility as easy and efficient as possible. The ability to apply online is an important part of the Department's effort to modernize and improve the application process."

Librarians have been trained to assist people in the use of the laptops. The laptops are designated for PEAK access only and are exempt from time limits placed on other library computers. Libraries will also allow people to reserve a laptop in advance, learn about and apply for benefits in a quiet location.

"Libraries are eager to participate on this project to enhance and expand Coloradans' access to the resources offered through PEAK," said Eugene Hainer, assistant commissioner for the Colorado State Library. "These laptops will enable library users to get the support and assistance they need to build more successful, economically successful lives."

The program is a joint effort between the Department, Boulder County PEAK and the Colorado Department of Education's State Library. The \$50,000 program was made possible through a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The laptops will be available in 50 library branches statewide beginning June 15, 2012.

About the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing: The department administers the Medicaid and Child Health Plan *Plus* programs as well as a variety of other programs for low-income Coloradans, families, children, pregnant women, the elderly and people with disabilities. The mission of the department is to improve access to cost-effective, quality health care services for Coloradans. For more information about the department, please visit Colorado.gov/hcpf.

About the Colorado Department of Education: As a dynamic service agency, the **Colorado Department of Education** provides leadership, resources, support, and accountability to the state's 178 school districts, 1,780 schools, and over 130,000 educators to help them build capacity to meet the needs of the state's over 840,000 public school students. CDE also provides services and support to boards of cooperative educational services (BOCES), early learning centers, state correctional schools, facility schools, the state's libraries, adult/family literacy centers, Colorado Talking Book Library, and General Education Development (GED) testing centers reaching learners of all ages. In addition, CDE provides structural and administrative support to the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind and the Charter School Institute.

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Please see next page for a list of participating libraries.

Laptops for Libraries Participating Locations

Library Jurisdiction	Library Locations
	Central Library, Martin Luther King Library, Mission Viejo Library,
Aurora Public Library	Moorhead Library/Rec Computer Center, Beck Library/Rec Computer
Contact: Steve Wasiecko, 303-759-6632	Center
Berthoud Community Library District	
Contact: Sara Wright, 970-532-2757	Berthoud Community Library
Boulder Public Library	Main Library, Meadows Branch Library, George Reynolds Branch
Contact: Valerie Maginnis, 303-441-3104	Library
Delta County Libraries	·
Contact: LaDonna Gunn, 970-872-4317	Paonia, Hotchkiss, Crawford, Cedaredge, Delta
El Paso County	
Contact: Susan Garrett, 719-390-2814	Security Public Library
Estes Valley Public Library District	
Contact: Claudine Perrault, 970-586-8116,	
x811	Estes Valley
Lafayette	
Contact: Patty Frobisher, 303-665-5200, x3805	Lafayette Public
Park County Public Libraries	
Contact: Patty Chapman, 719-836-4299	Bailey Library, Fairplay Library, Guffey Library, Lake George Library
Penrose Community Library District	
Contact: Kristi Lindsey, 719-372-6017, ext 20	Penrose Community Library
Pueblo City-County Library District	Rawlings Public Library, Barkman Library, Lamb Library, Pueblo West
Contact: Richard Tucey, 719-553-0202	Library, Library @ Y,
	Community Satellite Locations: Cesar Chavez Academy Satellite
	Library, Risley Middle School Satellite Library, South Mesa Elementary
	Satellite Library, North Mesa Elementary Satellite Library, Avondale
	Elementary Satellite Library, Vineland Elementary Satellite Library,
	Beulah School of Natural Sciences Satellite Library, Craver Middle
	School Satellite Library, Rye Elementary Satellite Library
Rangeview Library District	Wright Farms, Huron Street, Commerce City, Bennett, Brighton,
Contact: Pam Sandlian Smith, 303-405-3299	Washington Street, Perl Mack
San Miguel R2J Library District #2	,
Contact: Carrie Andrew, 970-327-4833	Norwood Public Library
Spanish Peaks Library District	·
Contact: Monica Birrer, 719-738-2774	Spanish Peaks Library
Upper San Juan Library District	
Contact: Jackie Welch, 970-264-2209	Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library
Wellington Public Library	
Contact: Gene Ann Trant, 970-568-3040	Wellington Public Library
Westminster Public Library	
Contact: Veronica Smith, 303-658-2645	Irving Street, College Hill, West View (library satellite location)